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Official voice of the Air Force Research Laboratory

## Air Force awards college team for aviation design

by Leah Bryant, AFRL headquarters

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, OHIO — The Air Force Research Laboratory recently announced the winner of its Technology Transfer Award for the 1999 NASA/FAA National General Aviation Design Competition for university students.

The award was presented to a team from Ohio State University during the opening ceremonies today for the United States Air and Trade Show in Vandalia, Ohio. This is only the second time the Air Force has offered an award to competition participants for incorporating Air Force-developed technologies in an aircraft design.

The overall competition winners were announced by NASA and the FAA in August at the Experimental Aircraft Association's Annual Convention and Fly-in at Oshkosh, Wis.

For contest purposes, general aircraft are defined as single-pilot, fixed-wing, single-engine aircraft for two to six passengers. The college teams propose designs for the entire aircraft or one of its systems or subsystems.

For this year's competition, a panel of Air Force Research Laboratory experts selected the Ohio State team for incorporating Air Force technology in its preliminary design of a supersonic business jet. As part of their aerodynamic research they relied on semi-empirical methodology outlined in the USAF Datacom (Data Compendium) handbook. Widely used by aerospace engineers, the handbook contains equations, charts and data for predicting the aerodynamic stability and control characteristics of aerospace vehicles.

"This year, and last, we rewarded the team that used Air Force technologies to maximize the potential of its theoretical design. There are a number of avenues available to the students to help them find out more about Air Force technologies, including our lab's Internet web site and our 'Tech Connect' hotline," said Vince Miller, a panel member and aerospace engineer with the laboratory's Air Vehicles Directorate here.

The laboratory's web site at <http://www.afrl.af.mil> also links to all 10 of the lab's research sites. The Tech Connect hotline, (800) 203-6451, puts government agencies, industry and academia in contact with laboratory technical experts who may have novel solutions for their immediate needs. @